

Remarks

Claims 1-25 are currently pending in the instant application.

Claims 13, 17, 20 and 22 have been amended. Support for the amendment to claim 13 can be found on page 6, line 9 of the instant application. Claims 17, 20 and 22 were amended to correct editorial oversights. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 13-18 and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Seil (U.S. 1,785,365).

Seil discloses a method for the removal of carbon bisulphide from flowing fuel gas such as coal gas (*see* Seil, Col. 1, lines 1-5). The gas is contacted with a solvent, such as kerosene. The solvent is effective for the removal of both naphthalene and carbon bisulphide (*see* Seil, col. 2, lines 51-52 and lines 63-67). Seil does not disclose, and Applicants have not found, a method in Seil where the fuel gas comprises 70-90 percent nitrogen. Seil does not disclose or suggest contacting a non-hydrocarbon gas stream with a liquid hydrocarbon stream to remove organic sulfur compounds. The Seil process is instead geared toward removing organic sulfur from fuel gas or coal gas.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 19, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seil taken together with Sperr, Jr. (U.S. 1,578,687).

Seil discloses a method as stated above.

Sperr discloses a scrubber consisting of steel turnings (*see* col. 4, lines 83-84). The steel turnings are "in the form of spirals not exceeding over 1 inch in diameter and not over approximately 12 inches long" (*see* col. 5, lines 40-45). This is used in a method for the removal of naphthalene from fuel gases (*see* col. 1, lines 10-14).

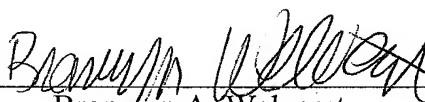
Applicants maintain that Seil and Sperr do not disclose, either alone or in combination, contacting a liquid hydrocarbon stream to remove organic sulfur compounds from a vent gas comprising 70-90 percent nitrogen. In contrast, both references are geared toward the removal of naphthalene from fuel gas.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowability of claims 1-12.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, allowance of all claims in the instant application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

CONOCOPHILLIPS COMPANY –
I. P. LEGAL

By 
Bronwyn A. Welvaert
Registration No. 52,350

BAW:adh

CONOCOPHILLIPS COMPANY – I. P. LEGAL
P.O. Box 2443
Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74005
918-661-0652